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Heidi Wright Printed name of person mailing correspondence	Signature of person mailing correspondence

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Rahme et al.

Art Unit:

1645

Serial No.:

10/660,811

Examiner:

To Be Assigned

Filed:

September 12, 2003

Customer No.:

21559

Title:

VIRULENCE-ASSOCIATED NUCLEIC ACIDS AND PROTEINS

AND USES THEREOF

Mail Stop Missing Parts Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination of the above-captioned patent application, applicants submit the following Amendment and Remarks.